

## **REMARKS**

Applicant respectfully traverses and request reconsideration.

The Abstract has been amended pursuant to the objection in the present Office Action, and to correct a typographical error. Further, claims 1 and 4 have been amended for clarification and to correct typographical errors. As to claim 1, this claim has been amended to include the additional limitation of previous claim 3 and to clarify that each connection means is dimensioned to enable connection to a pipe of substantially the same diameter as the respective section of the tubing component. Support for this latter amendment may be found in the present disclosure as originally filed at page 3, first and second paragraphs, among other places. Additionally, as to claim 4, this claim has been amended to indicate that the pipe is of an air-conditioning system, as supported by the present disclosure as originally filed at page 1, second paragraph. Claim 4 has been further amended to indicate that the selected connection means is joined both to the tubing component at the selected section and to the pipe, as supported by the present disclosure as originally filed at page 3, second paragraph. Claim 3 is cancelled without prejudice, and new claim 6 has been added. No new matter is believed to have been added.

The Abstract stands objected to because it was stated that the use of “is disclosed” on line 1 constituted an implied phrase. Appropriate correction has been made by way of amendment, and as such Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection.

Claims 4 and 5 stand objected to as having an informality; namely, it was noted that in claim 4, line 5, “of the tubing component” should be inserted after “section” for clarity. This correction has been made, and as such Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection.

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Adams (GB 2 288 860 A) (hereinafter “Adams”). Amended claim 1 requires, in relevant part, “a set of connection means . . . each connection means dimensioned to be joined to the tubing component at a respective section and to enable connection to a pipe of substantially the same diameter as the respective section.” Assuming, solely for the sake of argument, that the jubilee clips (reference numerals 32 and 34) of Adams can be considered to be dimensioned to be joined to the tubing component at a respective section, a position Applicant does not take, Applicant nonetheless respectfully submits that Adams fails to teach, among other things, that each connection means is dimensioned to enable connection to a pipe of substantially the same diameter as the respective section. Rather, Adams teaches a hose (reference numeral 11) that fits onto (*i.e.*, outside of) a connector (reference numeral 16) (page 5, second paragraph); thus, the diameter of the hose does not appear to be substantially the same as the diameter of the connector. Other differences will be recognized by one of ordinary skill in the art. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

As to amended claim 4, Applicant notes that this claim includes a similar limitation to that discussed above with respect to claim 1; namely, claim 4 requires “selecting a section of the tubing component with substantially the same diameter as the pipe.” Applicant respectfully reasserts the relevant remarks made above regarding Adams’s teaching of a hose that fits onto a connector; as such, Adams does not teach selecting a section of a tubing component with substantially the same diameter as a pipe. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 4 is in condition for allowance.

As to new claim 6, Applicant notes that this claim also includes a similar limitation to those discussed above with respect to claims 1 and 4. Applicant respectfully reasserts the

relevant remarks made above regarding claims 1 and 4, and as such Applicant respectfully submits that claim 6 is in condition for allowance.

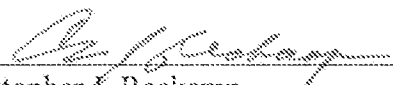
As to claim 3, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of this claim is moot in view of the cancellation of the claim hereinabove.

Dependent claims 2 and 5 add novel and non-obvious subject matter and are each allowable not merely as depending on an allowable base claim.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is invited to contact the below-listed attorney if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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